IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of

William G. DENNIS Docket No.: 07710001C1

Serial No.: 09/885,856 Group Art Unit: 3763

Filed: June 20, 2001 Examiner: HAYES, Michael J.

Confirmation No.: 3188

For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SEAL ASSEMBLY

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION AND FEE FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.136

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions for a Three Month Extension of Time to respond to the Final Office Action mailed on April 21, 2004. Enclosed is our Check No. 197829 in the amount of \$280.00 (the difference between the current \$490.00 fee and the \$210.00 previously paid on September 20, 2004) to cover the Three Month Extension of Time fee. Please charge any deficiencies in payment and credit any overpayment to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan E. Thomas Reg. No.: 50,352

Dated: October 20, 2004

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